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Minister greets francophones on francophonie week

OTTAWA, March 20, 1995 - At a ceremony on Parliament Hill to mark the launch of the Semaine nationale de la francophonie (National Francophonie Week), the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Mr. Michel Dupuy, conveyed his warmest wishes to Francophones and Francophiles in Canada with these words:

"As minister responsible for Canadian Francophonie, I am proud to join all Canadians celebrating the French language and culture this week. I would like to pay tribute to Francophones and Francophiles across the country and invite them to expand their efforts so that Canadian Francophonie may become more dynamic and enthusiastic than ever.

"This year, la Semaine nationale de la francophonie celebrates the diversity which is the backbone of the strength and originality of Canadian Francophonie. Many activities will be taking place in all corners of the country, from the Northwest Territories to Newfoundland, to underline the relationship that unites Francophones and Francophiles of all origins, here and elsewhere.

"French-speaking Canadians, regardless of their origin, should shout loud and long that they are an essential part of Canadian society, a bilingual and pluralistic society where French language holds a respected place.

"I would like to appeal to young Canadians to be proud of these riches that have been passed on to us by our ancestors and which we share with millions of people all over the world. The more we speak, write, sing and celebrate the language of our hearts, the better the chances are that the French language will stand the test of time and remain alive and healthy. I hope you all have a great week!"

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